

CALVIN

College

Friday, February 17, 2006

Ex Parte Presentation
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

3201 Burton Street, S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616-957-6000

Fax 616-957-8551

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC
Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Calvin College submits this letter to express our concerns that a number-based contribution mechanism would have a significant detrimental effect on this institution as well as other non-profit organizations.

We have projected that our per-month federal universal service obligation would increase from \$700 per-month to over \$11,000 per-month if a number-based approach were adopted, assuming that the per-number fee was \$1.00.

Calvin College does not have resources to offset this sizable increase. It would require the tuition of six additional students be dedicated solely to cover this expense. On a campus of less than 4,000 students, the tuition of six students is significant. Assuming the per-number fee of \$1.00, this charge would require a 17% increase in the Telecom budget. If adopted, the FCC's action would require significant cuts with respect to institutional programs, services, and public safety, including but not limited to

- the elimination of individual telephone service for students in campus housing.
- the reconfiguration of the campus network to an extension-based system under which the institution would maintain a single call-in number.
- the return of number resources over the summer and the elimination of number reserves earmarked for future campus priorities.

the loss of block number identification used by campus safety personnel to determine if the call originated from a residence or classroom.

A reduction in the number of classroom, courtesy and safety phones, forcing students/faculty and staff to search out a phone in the event of an emergency.

Abandonment of "number for life" and "follow me" projects where students are assigned an individual number for the duration of their college career, and have the ability to forward calls to these numbers to their cellular phones.

- the loss of educational and research funding to subsidize the telecommunications budget.
- The Commission should recognize that enterprise customers, including colleges and universities, as well as many not-for-profit organizations, local and state governments, charitable organizations, and medical institutions not have the resources to internalize significant increases in regulatory fees. Ultimately these fees are passed on to the tax-payer, end consumer or contributor.

Calvin College requests that no reform proposals be formally adopted by the Commission until such time as to the full impact of those proposals is studied and understood. At such a time we believe a suitable hybrid proposal can be adopted that does not substantially disadvantage any particular class of customers, including enterprise customers and low-volume residential customers

Respectfully submitted,



Robert L Myers
Director of Administrative Technology Services
Calvin College
1855 Knollcrest Cir SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546-4402
Phone 616.526.6620
Fax: 616.526.8550
RMyers@Calvin.edu